

FEB 1 4 2004

Docket No.: 826,1452

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Ken HASHIMOTO

Serial No. 09/021,370

Group Art Unit: 2876

Confirmation No. 4361

Filed: February 10, 1998

Examiner: D. St. Cyr

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CHARGING USING DATA CARRIER

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed October 15, 2002, and having a period for response set to expire on January 15, 2003. A Petition for a one-month extension of time, together with the requisite fee for same, is submitted herewith, thereby extending the period for response to February 15, 2003.

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **AMEND** claims 1, 2, 5, 10-12, 14-17, 20 and 24 as follows:

1. (SIX TIMES AMENDED) A charging system for automatically calculating a charge for a dish or drink selected by a customer, comprising:

writing means for writing data in at least two re-writable data carriers, each of the re-writable data carriers being attached to a container of a dish or drink;

reading means for reading data in a non-contact state from the re-writable data carriers.